Exercise 2.9
Wild Stories

Wildlife management can be tricky to communicate with landowners. Some wildlife is desired, while other species are a nuisance in the interface. Endangered and threatened species may be desired by some and a nuisance to others! Natural resource professionals should be able to define and critique the many different aspects of wildlife management in the interface.

Objectives: Participants will be able to do the following:

1. Explain the importance of wildlife management to interface forestry.

2. Describe key components of wildlife habitat: cover, water, food.

3. Describe procedures for attracting desired species and repelling nuisance species.

Materials:

Fact Sheet 2.6: Wildlife
Worksheet 1: Telling Wild Stories
Presentation 2.2
Prize for best story

Time: 45 minutes

1. Distribute **Fact Sheet 2.6: Wildlife** and review main points with the relevant slides from **Presentation 2.2.** Provide the exercise instructions and distribute *Worksheet 1: Telling Wild Stories*.

2. Ask participants to select someone they have not worked with recently as a partner.

3. Distribute worksheets to each team, explain the instructions, and tell then that this exercise uses some of the many stories resource professionals have about wildlife-human interactions as a springboard to discussing wildlife issues in the interface. Give teams 15-20 minutes to decide on a story and a technique to attract or repel wildlife.

4. Reassemble the group and quickly move through the story presentations, one team at a time. Ask the audience to score each presentation using the Wild Stories Evaluation Scoring Chart on the worksheet. (You will need to create extra scoring columns if more than 7 teams participate in this activity.)

5. Summarize this section by asking people to discuss the pros and cons of the techniques for interface wildlife management, both those already mentioned and others not yet mentioned.

6. Ask teams to hand in their worksheets so you can total scores and award a prize!

Summary

Wildlife is one of the attractions of living in the wildland-urban interface, as well as one of the risks. Residents who do not know how to manage wildlife may make excellent fodder for entertaining stories as well as good examples for thinking about how to better communicate wildlife management strategies.

📝 Worksheet 1: Telling Wild Stories

In this exercise, you and your partner will create a brief story about managing wildlife in the interface. You can draw upon your experiences or fabricate this story. Make sure your story includes one technique used to attract or repel wildlife in the interface.

A classic story has characters that solve a problem over time. They usually start with the discovery of the problem, try a few solutions that get them into trouble, and then conclude with the problem resolution. Vivid descriptions, action verbs, and interesting characters help make a story memorable and interesting.

For this exercise your wild story should have these qualities:

1. It illustrates the sincere, good-hearted intentions of interface landowners who care about being good land stewards, though they may be naïve about how to attain this goal.

2. It illustrates the species and habitat issues common in the interface.

3. It is entertaining, if not a bit odd.

4. It explains your own professional recommendations to the landowner.

5. It includes accurate information about attracting, repelling, or managing wildlife in the interface.

6. It is brief!

Your story will be evaluated based on the criteria in the Wild Stories Evaluation Scoring Chart. Prepare to tell the story to maximize your points. The team with the most points wins a prize!

You will also be asked to evaluate other teams as they tell their stories, distributing points as suggested. You will turn in this scoresheet or share the scores you record.

Wild Stories Evaluation Scoring Chart

Classic Wild Story	Team Score						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Landowner intentions (20 points maximum)							
Interface species and habitat (20 points maximum)							
Entertaining (10 points maximum)							
Professional recommendations (10 points maximum)							
Information on attracting, repelling, or managing wildlife (30 points maximum)							
Brevity (10 points maximum)							
Total (out of 100 points)							